

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy including the following steps:

- 5 receiving an order for a prescribed drug from a customer;
tagging a prescription container for receiving the prescribed drug with a first wireless tag, said tag assigned a first code for identifying the prescribed drug, said first code capable of being automatically detected by a computer system within an interrogation zone occupying a spatial region of the pharmacy;
10 positioning a supply container of a drug near the prescription container to disburse the drug from the supply container to the prescription container, said supply container bearing a second wireless tag assigned a second code for identifying the drug within the supply container, said second code capable being automatically detected by a computer system within the interrogation zone;
15 automatically comparing the identity of the prescribed drug with the identify of the drug in the supply container when the prescription container and supply container are in said interrogation zone at the same time; and,
flagging a discrepancy to a pharmacy worker if said first code and said second code differ.

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2. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said first wireless tag includes a transducer, and said flagging a discrepancy to a pharmacy worker step includes activating said transducer.

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3. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 2, wherein said transducer is a light.

4. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 2, wherein said transducer is an audio speaker.

5 5. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein one of said first tag and said second tag is an RFID tag.

6. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein one of said first tag and said second tag is an electromagnetic spatial interrogator.

7. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said first code is stored in an internal memory of said first tag and said second code is stored in an internal memory of said second tag.

8. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said first code and said second code are stored in a remote computer system and correlated with identification codes related to said first and second tags, respectively.

9. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said interrogation zone is a defined area adjacent to a tag reader.

10. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said interrogation zone is a defined area around said prescription container.

11. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, further including the step of:

operably securing a tag reader for detecting the presence of at least one of said first and second tags to a computer system.

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12. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 11, further including the step of:

automatically tracking the location of at least one of said first and second tags in the pharmacy based on the proximity of said tag to said tag reader.

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13. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 12, further including the step of:

displaying the location of said at least one of said first and second tags on a computer display on the computer system.

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14. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 13, wherein said interrogation zone is a defined area around said prescription container.

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15. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 13, wherein said interrogation zone is a defined area adjacent to a tag reader.

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16. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 1, further including a plurality of interrogation zones, each interrogation zone of said plurality of interrogation zones spaced-apart from each other within the pharmacy.

17. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 16, wherein at least one of said interrogation zones is positioned adjacent to a drug dispensing machine.

5 18. The method for verifying that a prescribed drug is properly dispensed from a pharmacy of claim 16, wherein at least one of said interrogation zones is positioned adjacent to a scale within said pharmacy.

19. A prescription order verification system for use in a retail pharmacy,
10 said system including:

a computer system having a display;

a first tag operably secured to a first container, said first tag assigned a first code for identifying a specific drug to be placed in said first container, said first code capable of being automatically detected by a tag reader within an interrogation zone
15 occupying a spatial region of the pharmacy and operably secured to the computer system; and,

a second tag operably secured to a second container containing a defined drug to be disbursed from said second container to said first container, said second tag assigned a second code for identifying the defined drug to be disbursed, said second
20 code capable of being automatically detected by the tag reader when said second tag is in said interrogation zone;

wherein said computer system signals a pharmacy worker if said first code and said second code differ and said first tag and said second tag are in said interrogation zone at the same time.

25 20. The prescription order verification and tracking system for use in a retail pharmacy of claim 19, wherein said first and second tags are RFID tags.

21. The prescription order verification and tracking system for use in a retail pharmacy of claim 19, wherein one of said first and second containers is a drug dispensing machine.

5 22. The prescription order verification and tracking system for use in a retail pharmacy of claim 19, wherein one of said first and second containers is a scale.

23. The prescription order verification and tracking system for use in a retail pharmacy of claim 19, wherein one of said first and second containers is a
10 counting machine.

24. The prescription order verification and tracking system for use in a retail pharmacy of claim 19, wherein said first container is a prescription container and said second container is a supply container.

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